

## **South Dakota Human Services Center Yankton, South Dakota**



The site for the South Dakota Human Services Center (originally known as the Dakota Hospital for the Insane and later named the Yankton State Hospital) was selected by Governor Howard on September 24, 1878. The facility, the first public institution in the Dakota Territory, was opened on April 11, 1879. Nine men and eight women, Dakota Territory residents previously cared for in institutions in Minnesota and Nebraska, were admitted by transfer.

The Legislature of 1881 authorized an issue of \$40,000 in territorial bonds for the purpose of constructing a substantial hospital building. Additions were made to the original building - first, by a central section for administration and later by an extension to the west. This was followed by two large wings constructed at the ends of the main building. In 1949 and 1951, the Legislature appropriated money for rebuilding the east and west wings respectively. The central section, destroyed by fire in 1957, was replaced by the Medical Institute Building completed in 1961. Other additions to the hospital complex include Employee's Building, constructed in 1951 for employee housing, Hospital Building (1954), Edmunds Building (1956) for employee housing, Chapel (1959), Central Dietary Building (1968) and Activities Center (1973).

Funds appropriated by the 1976 Legislative Session allowed for renovation of Pierce Building to meet standards for federal funding support. Renovation was

completed in January 1978 and nursing home patients were transferred to the building in early February 1978. The 119-bed intermediate care/skilled-nursing facility was certified for Medicaid funding shortly after that and routinely experienced a 98 percent occupancy rate.

In fiscal year 1992, Governor George Mickelson requested, and the Legislature approved, a \$30 million reconstruction project at the Human Services Center. The existing campus was found to have some significant structural deficiencies and did not meet the needs of patient treatment as it is known today. The intention of the building project was to provide modern, safe, efficient buildings for all patients. The cost of new construction was significantly less than attempting to remodel the existing old buildings. Some buildings used for patient treatment and housing dated back to 1903. Any remodeling of these buildings would not address certain issues related to efficiency, staff and patient safety.

The new hospital, named the George S. Mickelson Center for the Neurosciences, is located on state-owned land to the north of the south campus area. The entire campus is referred to as the Human Services Center. Some support buildings on the current site, such as the Dietary Building and the Activities Building continue to be used as a part of the new campus.

The hospital provides psychiatric diagnoses and inpatient treatment that includes psychological evaluations, recreational, occupational and educational services. It also provides special programs in the area of chemical dependency treatment, vocational assessment and training through an agreement with the Division of Rehabilitation Services located on the Center's grounds. Forensic psychiatric evaluations are completed by referral from the courts.



Aerial view of South Dakota Human Services Center North & South Campus.

Since October 1977, the Human Services Center and the Department of Psychiatry, University of South Dakota School of Medicine, have cooperated in recruitment efforts and have significantly improved both the quality and quantity of psychiatrists and other professional staff at the Human Services Center. University of South Dakota sophomore and junior medical students receive part of their medical school training at the Center, and four to eight weeks elective training is available to senior medical students. Physicians in the School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry Residency Program are required to spend part of their residency at the Human Services Center. The Center also serves as an intern training site for physical therapy, pharmacy, occupational therapy, psychology, nursing, social work and other related programs.

A State Penitentiary Trusty Program was initiated on the Human Services Center campus in fiscal year 1978. Ten penitentiary inmates were assigned to the Human Services Center to assist with farm and dairy operations. The program has proved to be successful with the maximum census being increased to 300 trusties. Of this population, 79 trusties are assigned to various departments including food services, laundry, grounds maintenance and custodial services.

The building that formerly housed the Women's Correctional Facility until mid-fiscal year 1985 was renovated and reopened in fiscal year 1986 as a maximum security penitentiary psychiatric correctional treatment unit. The 26-bed Penitentiary Correctional Treatment Unit was staffed and operated by the State Penitentiary. In fiscal year 1990, administration of this unit was shifted to the Human Services Center. The Security Treatment Unit continued to treat female inmates from the penitentiary who needed inpatient psychiatric care, provided forensic evaluations and treatment services to Human Services Center patients who required a secure treatment environment until its closure in December, 1997. Human Services Center patients needing a more secure treatment environment are now transferred to the Intensive Treatment Unit, (Cedar Two), located on the new campus.

The Human Services Center average daily inpatient census for fiscal year 2004 was 265. This compares to 260 in fiscal year 2003 and 263 in fiscal year 2002. In fiscal year 2002 Human Services Center had 1773 admissions, 1372 for psychiatric treatment and 401 for chemical dependency treatment. In fiscal year 2003, there were 1776 admissions, 1395 for psychiatric treatment and 381 for chemical dependency treatment. In fiscal year 2004 there were 2025 admissions, 1632 for psychiatric treatment and 393 for chemical dependency treatment.

The fiscal year 2005 operating budget for the Human Services Center is \$34,678,849.

**South Dakota Human Services Center**

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